

REMARKS

Prior to examination, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified United States National Phase patent application. Claims 6, 8, 10-11, 13 and 15-16 have been combined into a single claim (namely claim 6) by amending claim 6 and cancelling claims 8, 10-11, 13 and 15-16. In view of the foregoing, dependent claims 9, 12 and 14 have been amended accordingly. In addition, claims 35 and 36-41 have been combined into a single claim (namely claim 35) by amending claim 35 and cancelling claims 36-41. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 9, 12, 14, 17-35, and 42-45 are currently pending. No new matter has been added by way of this Preliminary Amendment.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment and examination of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested. Should any issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900 to resolve the same. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Preliminary Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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